Jordan Public Opinion Survey Report
Draft

The findings reported below are a brief summary of the main findings extracted from the opinion poll carried out by Information International for the benefit of ACRLI during the period between 14/05/06 and 21/05/06. The report contains the following: methodology of the survey, demographics, as well as reports on the judiciary, media, and parliament pillars.

I- Methodology

Four hundred participants from various areas in Amman were selected using the stratified sampling procedure. Consequently, 208 were men and 192 women. The sample included people from various educational level and ages.

II- Missing Data Analysis

The overall refusal rates reached 27.2% of the participants approached for this survey. This high refusal rate would *limit* the ability to generalize to the entire population of Amman. The overall pattern of missing responses did not exceed 5%. Missing data analyses indicate the need to be cautious with the results of two items only:

1- **Item 2** "Judges who give wrongful rulings are penalized" had the highest rate of missing data with 24% of participants reporting their inability to assess this item. Either participants felt the item to be too sensitive or they did not feel confident enough to provide an assessment on that question.
2- **Item 28** "To what extent do journalists accept favors/bribes" and **item 39** "A limit for campaign spending is set" had the second highest rate of missing data, with 22.8% of participants reporting their inability to assess the item.

These two items seemed to be the most problematic for our samples. Other items with lower values of missing data may be of interest to authors, and are provided in appendix C, p. 3 & 4.

III- Demographics

The following information is presented in percentages.

Gender	Male	٥٢
	Female	٤٧,٥
	N/A	.5
Marital status	Married	47.8
	Single	49.3
	Other (divorced, widowed)	1.5

IV- Reports per pillar: Judiciary

a- General findings

An important finding is that the state of the judiciary in Jordan tends to be positively evaluated by members of the general public. Out of the 18 specific questions asked, 10 were positively evaluated (see section b below).

Furthermore, the two tables below indicate that 30.5% of participants have dealt with the courts in Jordan, while the majority (69.5%) have never been to court. Interestingly, of the 30.5% who have had an experience with the court system in Jordan, 18.9% of participants reported having paid or having been asked to pay bribes or honoraries to court staff, while 14.8% of participants have reported being asked to bribe the judge presiding the case (low). Participants seem to be relatively satisfied with their lawyers' performance and with the judges' competency, but seem to be unsatisfied with the way that the judges handle their cases.

Have you ever dealt with the courts in your country?	Yes	30.5
	No	69.5
If yes, in which context?	As a plaintiff	34.4
	As a defendant	18.0
	As an accused	9.0
	As an victim	6.6
	As an witness	32.0
Have you paid or been asked to pay bribes or honoraries to the court staff?	Yes	18.9
	No	81.1
Has anyone asked you to give gifts or pay money to the judge who is presiding your case?	Yes	14.8
	No	85.2

	large extent	N.	small extent
60. To what extent was your lawyer discreet and honest?	47.4	25	27.6
61. To what extent was your lawyer competent in dealing with your case	45.3	23.1	31.6
62. To what extent are you satisfied with the way that the Judge handled your case?	40.2	17.1	42.7
63. To what extent was the judge who was handling your case competent	48.7	16.8	34.5

b- Positive Evaluation: Item analysis

Only two items and one general evaluation question received a favourable evaluation. Judges are perceived to have an acceptable level of personal integrity, have relevant professional skills, and their decisions are not influenced by interference and pressures. On the other hand, participants seem to have somewhat neutral opinions regarding the strict enforcement of the principle of equality before the law and the transparent manner with which court proceedings are managed.

		Dim	X
Main dimensions	9. Judges have the relevant professional skills	Eff	2.13
	7. Judges are generally perceived as having a high degree of personal integrity	Int	2.56
	1. Interference and pressure are exerted on Judges to influence their decision making (R)	Ind	2.88
	6. The principle of equality before the law is strictly enforced	Int	2.99
	11. The court proceedings are managed in a transparent manner	Com	2.99

Note: Scores represent the average (mean) for each item on a scale from 1 to 5. Scores below 3 reflect a positive evaluation of the item, while scores above 3 reflect a negative evaluation".

The overall evaluation by participants of the four main dimensions of the state of the judiciary is relatively positive. Detailed responses are presented in the table below.

General evaluation	16. The judges in your country are competent	2.47
	18. Generally, the judiciary in your country enforces justice	2.54
	17. The judges in your country are impartial when reviewing cases	2.80
	15. The judges in your country are honest and are not corrupt	2.83
	14. The judges in your country are independent and no one influences them	2.99

c- Negative Evaluation: Item analysis

Table 3 below presents the negatively rated items in rank order of importance. The mean numbers (X) refer to the mean of discontent associated with each item (means higher than 3 indicate a negative evaluation. Scale range: 1 to 5).

		Dim	X
Main dimensions	12. Litigations are conducted in a professional and timely manner (without any delays)	Com	3.71
	8. Citizens have easy access to Judicial Rulings	Int	3.43
	2. Judges who give wrongful rulings are penalized	Ind	3.36
	13. Judgments are enforced in a consistent and effective manner and without external interference	Com	3.27
	10. The cost of litigation in your country is affordable for everybody	Com	3.25
	4. The judiciary fights corruption wherever it exists	Int	3.17
	3. The laws that enhance the integrity of society are implemented accurately and effectively	Int	3.11
	5. Court decisions are made in total impartiality (equal treatment and no discrimination)	Int	3.06

d- Reform Questions

The questionnaire included a series of "reform" questions to which participants were asked to rate the importance of the need to reform specific dimensions within the judiciary. Participants ranked the reform in the following order:

21. Reforms are needed to enhance the efficiency of the judiciary	2.06
19. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the judiciary	2.07
22. Reforms are needed to enhance the competence of the judges	2.14
20. Reforms are needed to enhance the judiciary integrity	2.17

V- Reports per pillar: Media

a- General findings

Overall, participants rated the state of the media quite negatively. Most items received a negative evaluation and are presented in section b.

The table below shows that participants have an extensive use of the general media outlets available (e.g. newspapers, TV, Radio and Internet), with TV sources being the most relied upon for information. Interestingly, informal networks of information such as religious and social groups are not relied upon for information.

	large extent	N.	small extent
64. To what extent do you use the Newspapers and Magazines to obtain the information you need	69.4	10.1	20.5
65. To what extent do you use the TV to obtain the information you need	80.4	8.3	11.3
66. To what extent do you use the Radio to obtain the information you need	48.1	13.9	38
67. To what extent do you use the Internet to obtain the information you need	57.2	11.8	31
68. To what extent do you use the Social and Religious groups to obtain the information you need	24.7	24.1	51.2
69. To what extent do you use other means to obtain the information you need	No other means were mentioned		

b- Frequencies of specific items

Assessment of individual item responses indicated a negative evaluation of the state of the media in Jordan. Government's influence/pressure on the media is the main sour point in the state of the media in Jordan. On the other end, the majority of participants believe that they receive the various types of media that interest them (TV, Radio, printed press, internet). Moreover, Jordanian participants seemed to be divided as to whether journalists accept favors/bribes, whether the media

is influenced/pressured by non-governmental parties, as well as the media's ability to reflect the diversity in society.

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	large extent	N.	small extent
23. To what extent do journalists enjoy freedom of expression without fear of reprisal	22.3	18.5	59.2
26. To which degree is the media influenced/ pressured by government	63.1	16.1	20.8
27. To which degree is the media influenced/ pressured by non-governmental parties (exp: private corporations, political groups, other social groups)	40.8	24.6	34.6
28. To what extent do journalists accept favors/bribes	31	42	27
29. To what extent does the content of the media reflect the diversity in society	38.7	27.4	33.9
31. In your opinion, to what extent does the media provide you with impartial and balanced views	27	22.2	50.8
32. In your opinion, to what extent does the media provide you with the diverse political, economic and social views that you need.	26.9	21.7	51.4
33. To what extent does the media hire its employees without discrimination (racial, gender, political)	24.1	24.6	51.3
34. To what extent can you receive the various types of media that interest you (TV, Radio, printed press, internet)	68	16.4	15.6

Moreover, when asked about the general evaluation of the three main dimensions assessing the state of the media in Jordan, participants had a somewhat negative evaluation; two items were negatively evaluated and one positively (results are marginal).

	X
25. The media is able to report openly on all types of issues (political, religious, social)	3.47
24. Sanctions against journalists and media organizations are arbitrarily imposed (e.g. denial or suspension of credentials, closure., seizure) (R)	3.09
30. Generally, journalists have sufficient qualifications to perform their duties competently	2.95

c- Reform Questions

The questionnaire included a series of "reform" questions in which participants were asked to rate the importance of reform. Reforms were ranked as follow:

	X
35. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the media	1.74
37. Reforms are needed to enhance the efficiency of the media	1.81
36. Reforms are needed to enhance the integrity of the media	1.88

VI- Reports per pillar: Participation

a- Negative Evaluation: Item analysis

The overall evaluation of the parliament and participation pillar was negative. Participants rated 10 of the 14 items assessing the state of parliament negatively. Interestingly though, 40.8% of surveyed participants indicated that they did participate in the last general parliamentary elections. 47.5% of participants stated they did not participate in the last elections, while 11.8% refrained from answering the question.

b- Item analysis

The state of the parliament in Jordan tends to be negatively evaluated by the participants. The 10 items that were negatively evaluated are presented in rank order in the table below:

	X
42. The parliamentarians in my district interact with their constituents	3.69
39. A limit for campaign spending is set	3.69
48. Parliamentarians do not misuse their posts for illegal benefits	3.58
50. Parliamentarians are competent	3.56
44. Parliamentarians monitor all the actions of the ministers	3.53
45. Parliamentarians fight corruption	3.49
41. The parliament truly represents the social and political forces in the society	3.42
46. Parliament legislates effectively	3.29
47. Parliamentarians care about issues pertaining to the public	3.20
38. Candidates for Parliamentary seats enjoy equal competition chances	3.02

c- Positive Evaluation

Four items (equality, honesty, impartiality and independence) were positively evaluated.

	X
51. All citizens who meet the legal requirements are able to run for parliament	2.37
49. The elections in my country are conducted in a free and honest way	2.85
40. The authority that oversees elections is trusted and impartial	2.92
43. The parliamentarians endure illegal pressures (R)	2.92

d- Reform Questions

Participants highlighted the need for reforms in all dimensions of parliament participation and are ranked order in the table below.

	X
55. Reforms are needed to enhance the performance of the parliament	1.90
52. Reforms are needed to enhance representation and participation in parliamentary elections	1.96
54. Reforms are needed to enhance the integrity of the parliament	1.99
53. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the parliament	2.02